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Central Intelligence Agency



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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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Pakistan-China-US: Arms Technology Transfer

We believe Pakistan will probably safeguard the new US arms it receives to protect the arms supply relationship unless major strains develop in relations with the United States. Pakistan still considers its relations with China more durable than those with the United States [redacted]

[redacted] Nonetheless, Pakistan regards advanced US weapons as the key to its military modernization and wants to continue the security assistance program [redacted]

- Islamabad is aware of US concern about unauthorized transfers of US weapons to China and has signed a General Security of Military Information Agreement with the United States.
- The resolution last winter of the ALR-69 radar warning receiver issue to Zia's satisfaction and the delivery of the first F-16s has strengthened Islamabad's faith in the US security relationship. [redacted]

This memorandum was prepared by the South Asia Division, Office of Near Eastern and South Asian Analysis, [redacted]

[redacted] Information as of September 12, 1983 was used in preparation of this paper. Comments and queries are welcome and should be addressed to Chief, South Asia Division [redacted]

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We believe Pakistan will protect US arms technology as long as the US security relationship is perceived in Islamabad as providing tangible benefits. Major strains in relations with the United States over the nuclear issue or new disputes on arms agreements could undermine Islamabad's confidence in the United States and threaten the security relationship, possibly causing Pakistan to share US weapons or technology with China. Even if US-Pakistani relations remain strong, however, there is a risk that China at some point will gain access to Pakistan's US arms, given the intimacy of Pakistan's ties to China.

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